

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 05911 120835Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /053 W  
-----051933 122121Z /42

R 110806Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5910

INFO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5911

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJ: WHEREABOUTS OF PMAC VICE CHAIRMAN ATNAFU

1. SPECULATION HAS PERSISTED AMONG ADDIS DIP CORPS PAST TWO WEEKS CONCERNING WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS OF PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) VICE CHAIRMAN LT. COL. ATNAFU ABATE. MOST WIDELY BELIEVED STORY HAS ATNAFU UNDER LOOSE DETENTION BY 2ND DIVISION IN ASMARA, FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL THERE TO BOOST MORALE OF TROOPS AND TO RECEIVE ALLEGED GRIEVANCES.

2. OCT 9 ETHIOPIAN MEDIA REPORTED ATNAFU AT NORTHERN FRONT GIVING REVOLUTIONARY DIRECTIVES TO REGULAR AND MILITIA FORCES IN ASMARA, BARENTU, AND ADI CAIEH, INCLUDING THE 7TH ARMY DIVISION SECTOR. HE ALSO SAID TO HAVE INSPECTED KAGNEW, POLICE, AND MENNEN HOSPITALS AS WELL AS 4TH MILITIA DIVISION LOCATED IN ADI CAIEH COMMANDED BY COL. TARIKU HAILE (NO BIO AVAILABLE). VICE CHAIRMAN ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE ATTENDED RALLY IN BARENTU IN WHICH "THOUSANDS" OF INHABITANTS PARTICIPATED. MEDIA CONCLUDED ATNAFU AND OTHER PMAC MEMBERS CONTINUING THEIR TOURS OF IN-  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 05911 120835Z

SPECTION IN ERITREA REGION.

3. COMMENT: ANY LENGTHY, NOT FULLY EXPLAINED ABSENCE FROM ADDIS ABABA OF EITHER PMAC CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN INVARIABLY GENERATES SPECULATION, AND NEWS ARTICLES ON ATNAFU INSPECTION TRIP SEEM OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO DAMPEN SUCH SPECULATION. AT SAME TIME, EXTENSIVE MEDIA

REPORTS ON ATNAFU'S ACTIVITIES IN ERITREA INCLUDE NO PICTURES, AND MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVE THEY ARE MERELY COVER FOR "REAL" PURPOSE OF TRIP, WHICH GIVEN VARIOUSLY AS NEGOTIATION EFFORT WITH SECESSIONISTS, ASSESSMENT OF TROOP MORALE, OR DEMAND BY 2ND DIVISION THAT GRIEVANCES BE LISTENED TO AND ACTED UPON. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HE IS OTHERWISE ENGAGED THAN NEWSPAPERS INDICATED.

TIENKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 11-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ADDIS05911  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770372-0350  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19771077/aaaacnao.tel  
**Line Count:** 71  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** df302633-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 975076  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WHEREABOUTS OF PMAC VICE CHAIRMAN ATNAFU  
**TAGS:** PINS, ET, (ATNAFU ABATE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/df302633-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009